WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vaccine formulation for oral administration comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of microparticles sized such that at least 50% of the microparticles are less than 5 μm, the microparticles comprising at least one antigen entrapped or encapsulated by a biodegradable polymer.

2. The ~~vaccine formulation~~ method of Claim 1, wherein the microparticles are sized such that at least 50% of the microparticles are less than 3 μm.

3. The vaccine formulation of Claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid or enantiomers thereof.

4. The vaccine formulation of Claim 1, wherein the microparticles are formed using a solvent evaporation method.

5. The ~~vaccine formulation~~ method of Claim 1, wherein the antigen comprises a *B. pertussis* antigen.

6. The ~~vaccine formulation~~ method of Claim 1, wherein the microparticles comprise at least 2 subpopulations of microparticles, each subpopulation comprising a different antigen entrapped or encapsulated by a biodegradable polymer.

7. A vaccine formulation for oral administration comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of nanoparticles sized such that at least 50% of the nanoparticles are less than 600nm, the nanoparticles comprising at least one antigen entrapped or encapsulated by a biodegradable polymer.

8. The ~~vaccine formulation~~ method of Claim 7, wherein the nanoparticles are sized such that at least 50% of the microparticles are less than 500nm.

9. The vaccine formulation of Claim 7, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid or enantiomers thereof.

10. The vaccine formulation of Claim 7, wherein the nanoparticles are formed using a coacervation method.

11. The ~~vaccine formulation~~ of Claim 7, wherein the antigen comprises a *B. pertussis* antigen.

12. The ~~vaccine formulation~~ of Claim 7, wherein the nanoparticles comprise at least 2 subpopulations of nanoparticles, each subpopulation comprising a different antigen entrapped or encapsulated by a biodegradable polymer.

13. A method of inducing a protective immune response against *B. pertussis*, comprising orally administering to a subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of microparticles sized such that at least 50% of the microparticles are less than 5 μm, the microparticles comprising at least one *B. pertussis* antigen entrapped or encapsulated by a biodegradable polymer.

14. The method of Claim 13, where the microparticles are sized such that at least 50% of the microparticles are less than 3 μm.

15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid and enantiomers thereof and wherein the microparticles are formed using a solvent evaporation method.

16. The method of Claim 13, wherein the at least one *B. pertussis* antigen is selected from the group consisting of inactivated pertussis toxin (PTd), filmentous hemaglutinin (FHA), pertactin and fimbrae and combinations thereof.

17. A method of inducing a protective immune response against *B. pertussis*, comprising orally administering to a subject a pharmaceutically effective amount of nanoparticles sized such that at least 50% of the nanoparticles are less than

600nm, the nanoparticles comprising at least one *B. pertussis* antigen entrapped or encapsulated by a biodegradable polymer.

18. The method of Claim 17, where the nanoparticles are sized such that at least 50% of the microparticles are less than 500nm.

19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid or enantiomers thereof and wherein the nanoparticles are formed using a coacervation method.

20. The method of Claim 17, wherein the at least one *B. pertussis* antigen is selected from the group consisting of inactivated pertussis toxin (PTd), filmentous hemaglutinin (FHA), pertactin and fimbrae and combinations thereof.